

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 019610  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:ECINGRAHAM:CCH  
APPROVED BY EA - MR. HOLBROOKE  
S/S - LRMACFARLANE

-----281241Z 081265 /11

R 280429Z JAN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

S E C R E T STATE 019610

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID

SUBJECT. LIM BIAN KIE'S WASHINGTON VISIT -- PROPOSED

VISIT BY ALI MURTOPO

REF: JAKARTA 629

1. LIM BIAN KIE HAS BEEN IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, STAFFERS AND DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS ATTENDANCE AT THE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES SEMINAR IN INDONESIA NEXT MAY.

2. BIAN KIE MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY DESIGNATE HOLBROOKE JANUARY 26. HOLBROOKE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ATTENDING THE CSIS SEMINAR IF HIS SCHEDULE WOULD PERMIT BUT MADE NO COMMITMENT.

3. DISCUSSING THE PROPOSED WASHINGTON VISIT BY GENERAL  
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ALI MURTOPO (REFTEL), HOLBROOKE SAID WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO WELCOME MURTOPO TO WASHINGTON AT ANY TIME. HE FELT, HOWEVER, THAT THE SUGGESTED TIMING OF THE VISIT WOULD PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, IN ITS EARLY MONTHS, FACED A NUMBER OF MAJOR PROBLEMS IN FOREIGN POLICY THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON -- SALT NEGOTIATIONS, MIDDLE EAST, PANAMA, CYPRUS. SENIOR

OFFICIALS OF THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD INITIALLY BE PRE-OCCUPIED WITH THESE PROBLEMS AND WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO OTHER AREAS, INCLUDING SUCH FRIENDS AS INDONESIA. THIS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN IN ANY SENSE AS DOWNGRADING THE IMPORTANCE OF INDONESIA TO US BUT MERELY AS A REFLECTION OF THE FACT THAT OUR RELATIONS WERE SECURE, STABLE AND NOT TROUBLED BY ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS AT THIS TIME. IN VIEW OF THIS, HOLBROOKE FELT THAT A VISIT BY ALI AS EARLY AS MARCH WOULD BE LESS PRODUCTIVE THAN WE WOULD WANT. AFTER BRIEFLY DISCUSSING VARIOUS TIME FRAMES, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST TIME FOR SUCH A VISIT MIGHT BE AFTER THE CSIS SEMINAR IN MAY. HE ASKED BIAN KIE TO STRESS TO MURTOPO THAT WE WOULD ALWAYS BE GLAD TO SEE HIM HERE AND THAT OUR SUGGESTIONS WERE DESIGNED ONLY TO INSURE A PRODUCTIVE VISIT.

4. BIAN KIE SAID HE APPRECIATED THE SITUATION AND WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE PROPOSED VISIT BE POSTPONED AS SUGGESTED.

5. HOLBROOKE ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION TO TELL BIAN KIE THAT WE HOPED TO MOVE TOWARD NORMALIZING OUR RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AND THAT WE WERE CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE ENTIRE QUESTION. BIAN KIE OBSERVED THAT INDONESIA'S CONCERN WAS THAT THE US MIGHT FULFILL ITS EARLIER OFFER OF SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC AID TO VIETNAM. THE GOI FEARED THAT THIS WOULD PERMIT VIETNAM TO REHABILITATE AND DEVELOP ITS DOMESTIC ECONOMY AT A FASTER PACE THAN THE ASEAN COUNTRIES HAD ANTICIPATED, THEREBY INCREASING  
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THE POTENTIAL THREAT TO THEM. HOLBROOKE SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT A PART OF OUR THINKING, AND NOTED THAT THERE WAS STRONG CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO AID TO VIETNAM.  
VANCE

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**TAGS:** PFOR, ID, US, (MURTOPO, ALI), (LIM BIAN KIE)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009